2009 additional sectors of leather and handloom-powerloom were also covered. Total estimated employment in the sectors covered has increased by 0.6% during January-March, 2009 period. Non-export units have shown higher rate (0.92%) of increase in employment as compared to export units (0.28%). As compared to October-December, 2008 quarter wherein about half a million workers lost their jobs, the employment in selected sectors has increased by a quarter million during the January-March, 2009 period. During April, 2008-March, 2009 period, employment in the sectors covered has increased by 0.15 per cent, resulting in an addition of 0.28 million jobs.

**Assessment of working of employment exchanges**

2822. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has assessed the working of employment exchanges against the present day complex nature of the job market;

(b) if so, with what results thereto;

(c) whether Government is considering any proposal to reorient, modernize or abolish the system; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) Employment Exchanges are functioning under administrative and financial control of the respective State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. The Working Group on National Employment Service, consisting of representatives of Central and State Governments reviews functioning of the Employment Exchanges in the country periodically and suggests corrective measures. State Governments have taken many initiatives such as training of registered job-seekers, organising career melas, job-melas, campus recruitment programmes, etc to increase placement in the private sector keeping in view the changed employment market scenario. These efforts are showing good results.

(c) The Employment Exchanges are being modernized through computerization by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations keeping in view the resources available with them. Though some of the Employment Exchanges are computerized, many of them still work manually resulting in handicap in dissemination of information to employers and job-seekers. Modernisation and upgradation of Employment Exchanges has now been identified as one of the Mission Mode Projects under the National-e-Governance Plan by Government of India with an objective to progressively support all the State Governments to make effective use of IT in various activities for providing better services to all the stakeholders.

(d) Does not arise.

**Cost of providing universal coverage**

2823. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a recent ILO study of 12 developing low income countries including India wherein it is stated that it would cost India just 3.9 per cent more